



Advisory Announcement
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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery Announcement #57

COPPER RIVER DISTRICT: The Copper River District will open at 7:00 am on Thursday, August 5 for a 36-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period and at 7:00 am on Monday, August 9 for a 24-hour commercial drift gillnet fishing period.

During the commercial fishing season, subsistence harvest may occur in the Copper River District concurrent in time and area with commercial fishing periods until the Copper River District is closed at the end of the season. Additionally, waters of the Copper River District will open to subsistence fishing from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm on all Saturdays between July 4 and October 31.

The grass bank marker line is defined in 5AAC 24.350(1)(A) with the exception of this year's extension of the closure line across Little Softuk (**see bold font below**). This closure line is defined with the following points:

<i>Point</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Point Whitshed South	60° 26.49' N.	145° 52.86' W.
Alaganik Slough North	60° 24.65' N.	145° 36.70' W.
Pete Dahl East	60° 20.44' N.	145° 29.14' W.
West Kokenhenik	60° 14.88' N.	145° 10.01' W.
East "East Side"	60° 14.83' N.	145° 03.36' W.
Coffee Creek East	60° 14.19' N.	144° 58.01' W.
Charlie Mohr North	60° 15.15' N.	144° 56.43' W.
Martin River North	60° 15.29' N.	144° 52.52' W.
Strawberry Reef	60° 13.93' N.	144° 50.66' W.
Little Softuk	60° 13.16' N.	144° 41.38' W.

Waters north of this line, within sloughs, and in Boswell Bay within the bay (5 AAC 24.350 (1)(A)) are closed to commercial and subsistence salmon fishing during all periods.

For the week ending July 17, the Copper River Delta survey count was 76,020 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 31,424 – 74,276, however much of the escapement was driven by one system. The Copper River District harvest for the 24-hour fishing period that started on Monday, August 2 was 2 Chinook, 7,109 sockeye, 868 coho, 795 pink with 28 deliveries reported.

BERING RIVER DISTRICT: The Bering River District will remain closed to commercial fishing. For the week ending July 17, the Bering River Delta survey count was 10,360 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 11,051 – 24,313.

ESHAMY DISTRICT: The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 5. The Main Bay Subdistrict will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 12-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Thursday, August 5. The MBH AGZ will open to **drift gillnet** permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the MBH AGZ, will not be in effect for this fishing period.

The Eshamy District, excluding the MBH AGZ, will open to commercial **drift gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, August 9. The Eshamy District will open to commercial **set gillnet** harvest for a 24-hour period starting at 8:00 am on Monday, August 9. The MBH AGZ will open to **SET GILLNET** permit holders only during this fishing period. Regulatory closed waters in the MBH AGZ, will not be in effect for this fishing period.

Preliminary harvest estimates from the 24-hour period that started on Monday, August 2 were 0 Chinook, 1,840 sockeye, 171 coho, 15,052 pink, and 368 chum salmon with 55 deliveries reported. As of August 3, 946 sockeye salmon have passed the Eshamy River weir.

PWSAC has completed cost recovery and brood collection at MBH and recommends opening the Main Bay Subdistrict to the CPF. **In response to COVID-19, all PWSAC facilities are closed to the public until further notice.**

SEINE FISHERIES: PWSAC began its cost recovery sales program on Monday, July 26, and has collected approximately 22% of the assigned pink salmon revenue goal. Run entry at all PWSAC facilities remains slow and behind anticipated levels for this date. Cost recovery fishing at AFK continues today.

Preliminary harvest from the fishing periods on August 3, are as follows:

- Eastern District: 419,961 pink salmon with 47 deliveries reported.
- Northern District: 909,942 pink salmon with 84 deliveries reported.
- Coghill District: 59,620 pink salmon with 30 deliveries reported.
- Montague District: 474,400 pink salmon with 41 deliveries.
- Northwestern District: 5,262 pink salmon with 3 deliveries.
- Southeastern District: 216,801 pink salmon with 21 deliveries.

Recent preliminary contribution estimates, are as follows:

- Southwestern District on July 28: 18% SGH, 16% WNH, 13% AFK, 6 CCH%, and 57% wild.
- Southwestern District on August 1: 22% SGH, 10% AFK, 8% WNH, 2% CCH, and 47% wild.
- Northern District on August 1: 33% WNH, 20% CCH, 5% SGH, 4% AFK, and 38% wild.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District, **north of a latitude of 60° 54.00' N.**, will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 12-hour period, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on Thursday, August 5. **Waters of the Port of Valdez, north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point will be closed during this period.**

Waters inside of the following Eastern District Salmon Harvest Task Force (SHTF) markers will be closed for this period to ensure chum salmon escapement.

- (1) **Galena Bay:** waters east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 60°56.87' N. lat., 146°39.87' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 60°56.55' N. lat., 146°39.65' W. long.;
- (2) **Jack Bay:** waters south and east of a line from a shore marker at approximately 61°02.34' N. lat., 146°35.27' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.17' N. lat., 146°39.77' W. long.;

- (3) **Sawmill Bay:** north of a line from a marker on shore at approximately 61°02.71' N. lat., 146°46.44' W. long. to a shore marker at approximately 61°02.58' N. lat., 146°47.07' W. long.;

COGHILL DISTRICT: Waters of Port Wells and College Fiord, north of 60° 55.81' N., and east of a line from Pakenham Point (61° 00.45' N., 148° 04.85' W.) to 60° 55.81' N., 148° 10.92' W., will open to commercial purse seine and drift gillnet harvest for two 12-hour periods, from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm, on **Thursday, August 5, and Friday, August 6.** Regulatory closed waters pertaining to the Coghill River, as specified in 5 AAC 24.350(6)(B)), will not be in effect for this fishing period. Commercial fishing will not be permitted within the bed or channel of the Coghill River at any stage of the tide.

The next scheduled seine fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Friday, August 6.

The next scheduled gillnet fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 11.

Announcement recordings are available for **gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 267-2843.**

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound and Copper River homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.